Rails and Trails: Confluence and Consequences at the Crossroads of the West – Jay Buckley

The auto tour route interpretive guide for Utah provides a brief history of the three national historic trails in northern Utah, directions for getting around, and a listing of interpretive sites on the trails. Other guides for nearby states include Nevada, Idaho, & Wyoming. Chuck Milliken

GENERAL HISTORIES OF UTAH AND HER TRAILS


NATIVE POPULATIONS, including pre-Fremont, Fremont, Shoshones, Utes


*Prehistory of Echo Canyon, Summit County Utah.* This unwritten history has been documented by over 25 known prehistoric sites in the Echo Canyon area. By Mark Stuart

TRAPPERS TRADERS AND MOUNTAIN MEN who traversed northern Utah.


Barton, John D. *Antoine Robidoux: Buckskin Entrepreneur*. 1993


Gowans, Fred R. Rocky Mountain Rendezvous.

Gowans, Fred R. and Eugene E. Campbell, Fort Bridger, Island in the Wilderness (1975)


Kelly, Charles and Maurice L. Howe, Miles Goodyear. 1937.


Morgan, Dale L. “Miles Goodyear and the Founding of Ogden.” Utah Historical Quarterly 21 (July 1953).


Weber, David The Taos Trappers. 1968.


Explorers & Emigrants into northern Utah pre 1847.


Cline, Gloria G. *Exploring the Great Basin.*
Frémont, John C. *Oregon and California. The Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, Oregon, and California,* 1849.
Frémont, John C. *Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842, and to Oregon and North California in the Years 1843-44,* 1845.

"The Exploration of the Colorado River in 1869," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 15 (1947);

"The Exploration of the Colorado River and the High Plateaus of Utah in 1871-1872," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 16 and 17 (1948-1949);

"John Wesley Powell and the Colorado River Centennial Edition," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 37 (Spring 1969).

**Railroad and aspects of the Transcontinental Railroad.**


Athearn, Robert G. *Union Pacific Country*. 1971

*The Archaeology of Chinese Railroad Workers in Utah: Results of Surveys in Box Elder and Emery Counties*, Kenneth P. Cannon et. al. USUAS Special Report Number 2 Utah State Project Report Number U15UJ0417 b September 2016

*The Un-Driving of the Golden Spike*, 80 pages South Platte Press, P.O. Box 163, David City, NE 68632

**Explorers and Emigrants — Craig Fuller**

Ackley, Richard Thomas “Across the Plains in 1858” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 9 (1941).

Akin, James Webber The Oregon Trail Diary of James A. Kin, Jr. in 1852: the Unabridged Diary with Introduction and Contemporary Comments (1989).

Alter, J. Cecil “Extracts from the Journal of John Steele” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 6 (January 1933).


Bolton, Herbert E., ed. “Pageant in the Wilderness The Story of the Escalante Expedition to the Interior Basin, 1776, including the Diary and Itinerary of Father Escalante, transcribed and Annotated” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 18 (1950).


Bryant, Edwin What I Saw in California (1936).

Butruille, Susan G. Women's Voices from the Oregon Trail: The Times that Tried Women's Souls and a Guide to Women's History along the Oregon Trail (1993).


Crampton, C. Gregory “Humboldt’s Utah, 1811” Utah Historical Quarterly 26 (July 1958).


Davis, John Johnson “Historical Sketch of My Life” Utah Historical Quarterly 9 (1941)

De Voto, Bernard The Course of Empire (1952).


Eaton, Herbert The Overland Trail to California in 1852 (1974).


Emery, William H. Notes of a Military Reconnaissance from Fort Leavenworth, in Missouri, to San Diego, in California, 1847-48 (1851).


Freemont, John Charles Narrative of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the year 1847, and to Oregon and North California in the years 1843-1844 (1846).

Fremont, John Charles Report on the Exploration of the Country Lying between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains on the Line Between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains, on the Line of the Kansas and Great Platte Rivers (1843).


Hafen, LeRoy R. and Ann W. Hafen Rufus B. Sage, His Letters and Papers, 1836-1847; with an Annotated Reprint of his “Scenes” in the Rock Mountains; and in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Texas and Grand Prairies 2 Vols. (1956).

Hague, Harlan The Road to California, the Search for a Southern Overland Route, 1540-1848 (1978).

Harris, Burton. Job Colter: His Years in the Rockies (1952).


Hendren, Paul L. “A Footnote to History: The U. S. Army at Promontory, Utah, May 10, 1869” Utah Historical Quarterly 49 (Fall 1981).


Hunsaker, Joyce Bagley Seeing the Elephant, the Many Voices of the Oregon Trail (2003).

Jackson, Donald D. Gold Dust (1986).


Jackson, Richard H. “Great Salt Lake and Great Salt Lake City: American Curiosities” Utah Historical Quarterly 56 (Spring 1988).


Kelly, Charles “The Hastings Cutoff” Utah Historical Quarterly 3 (July 1930).

Kelly, Charles “The Salt Desert Trails” Utah Historical Quarterly 3 (April 1930).


Leigh, Rufus Wood “Lake Bonneville, Its Name and History” Utah Historical Quarterly 26 (April 1958).
Lienhard, Heinrich From St. Louis to Sutter's Fort, 1846 Translated & Edited by Erwin G. and Elizabeth G. Gudde (1961).
Macomb, John N. Exploring Expedition from Santa Fe, New Mexico to the Junction of the Grand and Green Rivers of the Great Colorado of the West in 1859 (1876).
Madsen, Brigham D. “Stansbury's Expedition to the Great Salt Lake, 1849-1850” Utah Historical Quarterly 56 (Spring 1988).
Madsen, Carol Cornwall. Journey to Zion: Voices from the Mormon Trail (1997).
Madsen, Susan Arrington I Walked to Zion: True Stores of Young Pioneers and the Mormon Trail (1994).
Miller, David E. “Peter Skene Ogden's Journal of His Expedition to Utah, 1825” Utah Historical Quarterly 20 (April 1952).
Morgan, Dale L. The Humboldt Highroad of the West (1943).
Morgan, Dale L. Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West (1953).
Mulder, William Homeward to Zion (1957)
Mullen, Fran, and others. The Donner Party Chronicles: A Day-by-Day Account of a Doomed Wagon Road, 1847-1847 (1997).
Mumey, Nolie The Teton Mountains: Their History and Tradition (1947).
Nevins, Alan Fremont: Pathmaker of the West (1955).
Petersen, Jesse G. A Route for the Overland Stage: James H. Simpson's 1859 Trail Across the Great Basin ( ?)
Petersen, Jesse G. *West from Salt Lake: Diaries from the Overland Trail* (2012).


Rau, Weldon W., and others *Surviving the Oregon Trail, 1852: As Told by Mary Ann and Willis Boatman and augmented with accounts by other Overland Travelers* (2001).


Robertson, Grant C. *Fort Hall, Gateway to the Oregon Country* (1963).

Rolle, Andrew F., ed. *The Road to Virginia City, the Diary of James Knox Polk Miller* (1960).


Shepperson, Wilbur “The Place of the Mormons in the Religious Emigration of Britain, 1846-1860” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 20 (July 1952).


Stegner, Wallace *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West* (1953).


Stoff, Edwin “A Ketch of My Life” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 9 (1941).


Wilkins, Thurman *Clarence King* (1958).


Woodbury, Angus “The Route of Jedediah Smith in 1826 from the Great Salt Lake to the Colorado River” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 4 (April 1931).
Salt Lake Valley has often been called the “Cross Roads of the West” and rightly so. It is a place where people and cultures of all Nations and have come together and mingled. If Salt Lake is the Cross Roads of the West then Echo Canyon is the “Gate way to the West” as most who came to the Valley traversed it’s path. Echo Canyon has a long and fascinating history beginning with the Fur trade, The Immigrants, the Pony Express, the Telegraph, the Railroad and finally the modern Interstate Highway. It still plays an important transportation and communications route today (Figure 1).

Most people believe that the history of Echo Canyon begins with the coming of the Anglo-Europeans in the 1820’s but long before the Canyon was used by animals and people as corridor between the Great Basin and the Northwestern Plains of Wyoming for thousands of years before written history. This unwritten history has been documented by over 25 known prehistoric sites in the Echo Canyon area. Many of these are multi-component sites meaning they are good places to camp and were intermittently occupied for thousands of years.

This story begins ca. 12,000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene Ice age as ancient Lake Bonneville was slowly shrinking to become the modern Great Salt Lake. Herds of Wooley Mammoths, Giant Bison, Musk Ox, Saber Tooth Tigers, Camels and Horses regularly moved between Lake Bonneville and the Wyoming Plains via Echo Canyon. Following these animals were nomadic Paleo Indians who hunted these animals for food. Only one Paleo-Archaic site has been recorded in Echo Canyon. It is a small scatter of lithic flakes containing a biface knife and a large Great Basin Stemmed Projectile point (Figure 2 top row). Paleo Indian sites are identified by large un-notched fluted and/or stemmed lanceolate projectile points used as spears and knives. The Paleo period lasts from ca. 11,000 to 8,000 BC. Numerous Paleo sites are known along the Old River Bed and the Gilbert shoreline of Lake Bonneville 50 miles to the west.

By 10,000 years ago all of the mega fauna of the Ice Age had become extinct and the climate was much like todays. This led to major adaptive shifts in settlement, subsistence and technology of the Native Americans. Food choices expanded as seeds become important indicated by the presence of grinding stones. Fluted and Stemmed projectile points are replaced with large side-notched (early) and corner-notched dart points. Baskets used for containers also are common. This time is known as the Archaic which lasts from ca. 8,000 BC to 200 AD. Seven Archaic sites have been found in Echo Canyon and are marked by the presence of grinding stones, roasting hearths and large side-notched (Figure 2 middle row) and corner-notched (Figure 2 bottom row) projectile points used with an Atlatl or throwing stick. Many of the large butchering tools (Figure 4) made of local quartzite may belong to this period. Archaic sites in Echo Canyon have been found in both rock shelters and open sites.

The Formative period (200-1350 AD) is marked by the widespread adoption by Archaic peoples of corn horticulture, pottery and bow and arrow technology. The adoption of horticulture led to a more sedentary life style with pit house villages occupying good agricultural lands on the eastern shores of the Great Salt Lake. The Formative or Fremont as it is called in Northern Utah also marks an increase in long distance trade with Pacific Ocean shells and lithic materials being widely circulated. Large amounts of obsidian from Southeast Idaho and Wyoming are found on Great Salt Lake Fremont sites west of the Wasatch Mountains. It appears from archaeological evidence that much of this chert was obtained via Echo Canyon. The Great Salt Lake Fremont also marks an increase in buffalo hunting. The only known Buffalo Jump in the State of Utah is just over the ridge from the head of Echo Canyon. This site known as the Woodruff Buffalo Jump is a 30’ foot cliff.
with an additional fall of 45 of talus slope. At least 85 buffalo were killed and butchered at the site. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from scientific excavations but hide scrapers of Wyoming tiger chert were found. A radio carbon date of 1335 +/- 90 BP. (615 AD) was obtained from a sample of buffalo bone which places the site in the Fremont period. A second date of 1137 AD. was recently reported by Cannon (2015). Only a small portion of this important site has been excavated with much scientific information remaining (Shields 1978). A second Buffalo Jump is rumored to be in Echo Canyon or one of its tributaries but has not yet been located and awaits confirmation. A total of 11 Fremont sites have been located in the Echo Canyon area in rock shelters and open sites. In addition to diagnostic Fremont arrow points (Figure 3 top) 3 sites contained Great Salt Lake Gray pottery. Four Fremont rock art sites have been also identified in the area.

One site near Echo Canyon contains diagnostic Promontory pottery mixed with Fremont Great Salt Lake gray. The Promontory complex represents an Athabascan (Apache/Navaho) group of Buffalo hunters who occupied portions of Northern Utah from ca.1200-1500 AD. corresponding to the end of the Fremont period and the beginning of the Late Prehistoric period (1400-1800 AD). Although animal bone is rare on surface sites, not surprisingly the site Promontory contains buffalo remains.

The Late Prehistoric period marks the end of farming and a return to a nomadic Archaic subsistence pattern of hunting and gathering. It is also the time of the historic Shoshoni peoples who occupied the area at the arrival of Anglo-Europeans. The Late prehistoric period is defined by diagnostic Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular arrow points (Figure 3 bottom) and Intermountain Brown ware pottery. Sometime after 1680 AD the introduction of the horse to Native peoples in the area from the Spanish southwest marks another cultural change. The adoption of the horse facilitated easier movement of Native Americans and an increase use of the well-worn trail in Echo Canyon between the Great Salt Lake and the plains of Wyoming. This lead to the adoption of many Plains cultural features by the local Shoshoni. Although Echo Canyon is Shoshoni territory, it is known that other Indian groups such as Ute, Crow, Flathead, Arapaho, Sioux, Cheyenne, Blackfeet, Goshute and Bannock were frequent users of the Echo Canyon trail. David Hampshire (1998:118) describes a battle between Shoshoni and Ute near the head of Echo Canyon indicating that tribal interactions were not always peaceful. Twelve Late Prehistoric sites have been documented in the Echo Canyon area. Most are small lithic scatters although 4 sites contained Intermountain Brown ware pottery marking temporary campsites. One Late Prehistoric site has been professionally excavated. Known as the Parsnip Canyon site, it is a small open kill of 3-4 buffalo containing butchering tools and small side notched arrow points. A radio carbon date of 550 +/- 80 years (1400 AD) was obtained placing occupation of the site at the Promontory/Nemic transition. Obsidian at the site was sourced to Malad and Browns Bench sources in southeastern Idaho. Parsnip Canyon was excavated by Western Wyoming College in advance of pipe line construction (Darlington 2000). One Late Prehistoric line and Groove Plains style rock art site is in the Echo area and is of probable Shoshoni origin.

In summary, Echo Canyon has been used as a transportation corridor for thousands of years beginning with the trails of large Pleistocene mega fauna and then by the Paleo Indians who hunted them. Next the Archaic peoples used the Echo corridor and hunted game in its numerous tributary side canyons. About the time of Christ, the Formative Fremont peoples were frequent visitors to the canyon using it as a passage way between their farming villages on the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake and the Buffalo plains of Wyoming. Fremont and Late Prehistoric sites in Echo Canyon show both Great Basin and Plains cultural features. The greatest use of Echo Canyon was during the Late Prehistoric period as both Great Basin and Plains tribes used the corridor. Most of the prehistoric sites in Echo Canyon are lithic scatters and short-term hunting camps used during Native American movement through the canyon. Beginning in the 1820’s Anglo Europeans simply followed what was then a well-used trail through the canyon.

References:
Darlington, David and Dirk Murcray
2000  Archaeological Investigations at the Parsnip Canyon Site 42SM205, Summit County Utah.  
Archaeological Services, Western Wyoming College.  Rock Springs.

Hampshire, David, Martha Sonntag Bradley and Allen Roberts  
1998  A History of Summit County.  Utah Centennial County History Series.  Utah State Historical 
Society.  Salt Lake City.

Shields, W. F.  
1978  The Woodruff Bison Kill.  Miscellaneous Papers No. 21 University of Utah Anthropological 

Stuart, Mark E.  
Nd.  Various IMACS Site Forms submitted to the Antiquities Section Division of Utah State History 

Mountain Men and Traders Reading List – Craig Fuller
Alley, John R., Jr.  “Prelude to Dispossession: The Fur Trade's Significance for the Northern Utes and Southern 
Paiutes” Utah Historical Quarterly 50 (Spring 1982).
Auerbach, Herbert S.  “Old Trails, Old Forts, Old Trappers and Traders” Utah Historical Quarterly 9 (January, 
April 1941).
Camp, Charles L.  James Clyman, Frontiersman: The Adventures of a Trapper and Covered-Wagon Emigrant as 
Told in his Own Reminiscences and Diaries (1960).
Cleland, Robert Glass.  This Reckless Bread of Men: the Trappers and Fur Traders of the Southwest (1950).
Cline, Gloria Griffin.  Peter Skene Ogden and the Hudson's Bay Company (1974).
Dick, Everett.  Vanguards of the Frontier (1941).
Ferris, Warren A.  Life in the Rocky Mountains (1940).
Hafen, LeRoy R.  “Etienne Provost, Mountain Man and Utah Pioneer” Utah Historical Quarterly 36 (Spring 
1968).


Lavender, David. The First in the Wilderness (1964).

Miller, David E. “Peter Skene Ogden's Journal of His Expedition to Utah, 1825” Utah Historical Quarterly 20 (April 1952).


Morgan, Dale L. Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West (1964).

Morgan, Dale L. “Utah Before the Mormons” Utah Historical Quarterly 36 (Winter 1968).

Morgan, Dale L. “Miles Goodyear and the Founding of Ogden” Utah Historical Quarterly 21 (July 1953).


Morgan, Dale L., ed. The West of William H. Ashley: The International Struggle for the Fur Trade of the Missouri, the Rocky Mountains and the Columbia, with expeditions beyond the Continental Divide, recorded in the Diaries and Letters of William H. Ashley and contemporaries, 1822-1838 (1964).


Reid, John Phillip. Contested Empire: Peter Skene Ogden and the Snake River Expedition (2002).


Robertson, Frank C. Fort Hall: Gateway to the Oregon Country (1963).


Russell, Osborne. Journal of a Trapper or Nine Years in the Rocky Mountains (1921).

Smith, Alston J. Men against the Mountains: Jedediah Smith and the Southwest Expedition of 18261829 (1965).

Sunders, John E. Joshua Pilcher: Fur Trader and Indian Agent (1968).

Templeton, Sardis W. The Lame Captain: The Life and Adventures of Pegleg Smith (1965).


**Native Americans Reading List - Craig Fuller**

NOTE: The Utah Historical Quarterly is on the internet and free. Google Utah Historical Quarterly then select https://heritage.utah.gov/history/quarterly. Then use the search button The Utah Historical Archives and search by title or author.


Bailey, Paul D. Walkara “Hawk of the Mountain” (1954)

Barney, Gerald D. Mormons, Indians and the Ghost Dane Religion of 1890 (1986).


Bigler, David L. “The Crisis at Fort Limhi, 1858” Utah Historical Quarterly 35 (Spring 1967).

Brooks, Juanita. “Indian Relations on the Mormon Frontier” Utah Historical Quarterly 12 (Jan-April 1944).


Conetah, Fred A. A History of the Northern Ute People (1982).

Crampton, C. Gregory and David E. Miller, eds. “Journal of Two Campaigns by the Utah Territorial Militia Against the Navajo Indians, 1869” Utah Historical Quarterly 29 (April 1961)


Crum, Steven J. The Road on which We Came: A History of the Western Shoshone (1994).


Fowler, Don B. and Catherine S. “Notes on the History of the Southern Paiutes and Western Shoshones” Utah Historical Quarterly 39 (Spring 1971).


Holt, Ronald L. Beneath these Red Cliffs: An Ethnohistory of the Utah Paiutes (1992).

King, Jeffrey S. “Do Not Execute Chief Pocatello: President Lincoln Acts to Save the Shoshoni Chief” Utah Historical Quarterly 53 (Summer 1985).


Miller, David Humphreys. Ghost Dance (1959).


Peterson, Charles S. “The Hopis and the Mormons, 1858-1873” Utah Historical Quarterly 39 (Spring 1971).


Native American, Fremont Indians - Pula Watkins


_Basin-Plateau Aboriginal Sociopolitical Groups_, Steward, Julian H (1938) by Paula Watkins

Railroad Transportation – Craig Fuller


Athearn, Robert G. “Opening the Gates of Zion: Utah and the Coming of the Union Pacific Railroad” Utah Historical Quarterly 36 (Fall 1968).


Arrington, Leonard J. “Utah's Coal Road in the Age of Unregulated Competition” Utah Historical Quarterly 23 (January 1955).

Beal, Merrill D. Intermountain Railroads, Standard and Narrow Gauge (1962).

Beal, Merrill D. The Utah and Northern Railroad: Narrow Gauge (1980).


Bender, Henry E. Uintah Railway the Gilsonite Route (1970).


Hedren, Paul L. “A Footnote to History: The U. S. Army at Promontory Utah, 10 May 1869” Utah Historical Quarterly 49 (Fall 1981).


Kotter, Richard E. “The Transcontinental Railroad and Ogden City Politics” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 42 (Summer 1974).


Sorensen, Philip E. “The Utah Idaho Central Railroad” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 9 (July-October 1941).


**Reading list – Chuck Milliken**

**Rails and Trails- confluence and impacts at Crossroads of the West.**

The auto tour route interpretive guide for Utah provides a brief background history of the three national historic trails in northern Utah, directions for getting around, and a listing of interpretive sites on the trails. Other guides for nearby states include Nevada, Idaho, & Wyoming. Chuck Milliken

**The native populations which will cover pre-Fremont, Fremont, Shoshone**

*Ancient Peoples of the Great Basin & Colorado Plateau*, by Steven R. Simms. This isn't a heavily academic tome; it's engaging and easy to read. Lee Kreutzer

*Prehistory of Echo Canyon, Summit County Utah.* This unwritten history has been documented by over 25 known prehistoric sites in the Echo Canyon area. By Mark Stuart


*Traces of the Fremont* by Dr. Steven R. Simms and a UofU Anthropological. the University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. By Mark Stuart


*Newe Hupia: Shoshoni Poetry Songs,* Crum, Beverly and Earl; Dayley, Jon P. (2001) by Paula Watkins


**Railroad and aspects of the Transcontinental Railroad.**

*The Archaeology of Chinese Railroad Workers in Utah: Results of Surveys in Box Elder and Emery Counties,* Kenneth P. Cannon et.al. USUAS Special Report Number 2 Utah State Project Report Number U15UJ0417 b September 2016

*The Un-Driving of the Golden Spike,* 80 pages South Platte Press, P.O. Box 163, David City, NE 68632
In Search of Lehi’s Trail. Part 1: The Preparation. By Lynn M. and Hope A. Hilton. For 146 years, readers of the Book of Mormon have in their mind’s eye traveled and camped with Lehi as he solemnly led his family from Jerusalem, trudged southward to the Red Sea, and moved periodically down the Red Sea coast until the group turned inland and crossed through much affliction before coming to a coastal area they said was bountiful. The idea to investigate the general area of Lehi’s journey soon presented itself, and in 1972 we started to discuss the likelihood of such a venture. Interviews with Middle East scholars of both the University of Utah and Brigham Young University prepared our minds for the task ahead. Attribution to Defoe is based on internal textual relationship to his works of proven authorship together with supporting external evidence. Cf. J.H. Moore. Defoe in the pillory. Bloomington, Ind., 1939, p. 126-188. First ed. was printed for C. Rivington in 1724 under title: A general history of the robberies and murders of the most notorious pyrates By Captain Charles Johnson. Boston Public Library (Rare Book Dept.) copy: errors in pagination: 329,248 and 349 misnumbered 229, 48 and 3; verso and recto of the 9th prelim. leaf have been transposed in imposition.
The History of Utah is an examination of the human history and social activity within the state of Utah located in the western United States. Archaeological evidence dates the earliest habitation of Native Americans in Utah to about 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Paleolithic people lived near the Great Basin's swamps and marshes, which had an abundance of fish, birds, and small game animals. Big game, including bison, mammoths and ground sloths, also were attracted to these water sources. Over the Advent of Trappers and Travellers. 1778â€“1846. Invasion by Fur Huntersâ€”Baron la Hontan and his Fablesâ€”The Popular Geographic Ideaâ€”Discovery of the Great Salt Lakeâ€”James Bridger Deciding a Betâ€”He Determines the Course of Bear River, and Comes upon the Great Lakeâ€”Henry, Ashley, Green, and Beckwourth on the Groundâ€”Fort Built at Utah Lakeâ€”Peter Skeen Ogdenâ€”Journey of Jedediah S. Smithâ€”A Strange Countryâ€”Pegleg Smithâ€”Wolfskill, Yount, and Burton Traverse the Countryâ€”Walker's Visit to Californiaâ€”Some Old Maps